

TRCC Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes

1:30-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, 2025

MS Teams

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

2) Opening Remarks

a) Remarks from TRCC Chair, Michael Chacon, P.E., TxDOT Traffic Safety Division Director

- i. Announced his retirement effective in August and thanked the committee for their contributions and support.

b) Remarks from TxDOT – Traffic Safety, Cathy Kratz, TxDOT – Traffic Safety Division Deputy Director

- i. Cathy shared her appreciation for the team and shared updates from the ATSIP Conference, emphasizing the importance of continued input.

c) Remarks from TRCC Moderator, Larry Krantz, TxDOT Traffic Records Program Manager

- i. Larry reflected on the Boston ATSIP Conference.

d) Approval of May 2025 TRCC Meeting Minutes

- i. Jia Benno motioned to approve the May meeting minutes, seconded by Jim Markham. All approved, none opposed.

3) TRCC Member Roundtable

a) Citations Database (Lt James Taylor, TxDPS)

- i. The Highway Safety Operations Center underwent transition with an expansion to 12 corporals. The positions were added last fall to serve as field experts in areas like citation entry, CAD systems, and newer tech such as body-worn cameras and radar.
- ii. The corporals have been providing refresher training on citation completion and using records management tools, which has had a major impact on the quality of incoming data. A more complete data dictionary is also being created with suggestions from Dr. Shipp and Emily to help users navigate the data.

- iii. The high value data set and dictionary are currently being reviewed and will be published together once ready. Users were encouraged to send in feedback if the dictionary is unclear or if more explanation is needed, so it can be improved in future versions.
- iv. Anyone needing the data in a different format (for a research project) can request a custom version, like a consolidated or database-friendly file. The data is being released in Excel to keep it widely accessible, but users are welcome to reach out for other formats based on their needs.

b) CRIS Database (Jim Markham, TxDOT)

- i. CRIS is currently on version 29.0, with improved roadbed location. The update rolled out more smoothly than previous versions. Version 29.1 is scheduled for release on August 3, focusing on updates to the purchasing system, including new user types and verification to track crash record purchases better.
- ii. A data breach involving an external account had occurred but was fully contained. TxDOT privacy staff led the response, and impacted users were notified. Real-time login monitoring has since been implemented.
- iii. The next major update, version 30.0, is planned for November 2025 and will include a redesigned CR-3 form. The data content will remain similar, but the layout will be cleaner and more intuitive. The new form will group related data, remove unused fields, and improve usability for both digital and printed formats.
- iv. CRIS will begin generating crash report PDFs internally, allowing for more consistent formatting and reducing the burden on agencies and vendors. Agencies will send XML files, and validated submissions will return with a crash ID and token for PDF access.
- v. Two new yes/no fields will be added to crashes, asking whether alcohol or drugs were suspected. The aim is to improve impaired driving data and reduce reliance on statistical modeling.

c) Driver License Database (Valery Wakefield, TxDPS)

- i. Work on the Texas Conviction Reporting Portal was still underway, with a new target launch date set for November 9. Six courts had volunteered to participate in pilot testing, which was expected to help improve how quickly convictions are submitted.
- ii. Reporting timeliness had shown encouraging progress, around 13% in 2023 to 18.6% in the first quarter of 2025, and reached 43% in June. The improvement was believed

to be the result of ongoing education and outreach efforts with the courts. The efforts would lead to full compliance and stronger federal performance ratings shortly.

d) EMS & Trauma Registry (Jia Benno, DSHS)

- i. The 2024 EMS and trauma datasets were finalized and are now being used for analysis. Public use files have been prepared and are available to researchers and students upon request. Linkage to CRIS records will begin later this summer.
- ii. EMS agencies and trauma facilities have 90 days to submit data. As of July, the missing Q1 2025 data were considered overdue and referred to the EMS and Trauma Systems team for enforcement. This collaboration continues to help improve statewide data completeness.
- iii. At the June Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council meeting, performance data on transfer delays for severely injured patients were presented. Many transfers still exceed the ideal two-hour window, and the data is being shared to support improvement efforts.
- iv. A public EMS dashboard covering 2018 to 2024 is in development, with desktop and mobile access. A release is expected in November.

e) Roadway Database (Jeremy Rogers, TxDOT)

- i. Emily Martin presented updates on behalf of Jeremy Rogers. The final version of the annual roadway inventory was scheduled for release the following week. The dataset had undergone full review and was ready for public posting. Agencies needing earlier access were encouraged to contact Jeremy directly for expedited delivery.
- ii. An update on the Roadway Inventory Validation and LiDAR project was shared. Cyclomedia, the contractor responsible for statewide LiDAR and imagery collection, had completed data collection efforts.
- iii. Approximately 80% of the imagery and LiDAR data had already been uploaded to the StreetSmart application, which is available for internal agency use.
- iv. The first batch of extracted roadway asset data was expected to be delivered in August and will be loaded into the GRIT system. The assets are to support various applications statewide, improving inventory accuracy and enhancing project planning capabilities.

- f) **Registration & Titles System (Roland Luna, TxDMV - Presented by Maritza Ramirez)**
 - i. Shared an update regarding House Bill 718, which took effect on July 1. The legislation replaced temporary paper tags with permanent metal plates for newly purchased vehicles.
 - ii. A bulletin was sent to law enforcement agencies summarizing these changes and advising that vehicles with metal plates but no registration stickers would now appear on roadways. Officers were informed that vehicle information could be verified through the motor vehicle records, confirming valid new purchases.

4) TRCC Business

a) TSIS Update (Shipp)

- i. Eva Shipp shared that the TSIS is an annual strategic requirement that must demonstrate measurable improvement in at least one metric to remain eligible for federal funding.
- ii. The finalized plan was submitted to TxDOT, officially signed, and has been posted to the website. Eva extended thanks to everyone involved and acknowledged the effort as a collective achievement.

b) STRAP Update (Shipp)

- i. The STRAP, previously required every five years by NHTSA, involved a federal review and scoring of core databases based on several performance attributes. Recent changes in federal guidelines have allowed flexibility. Instead of reviewing all databases at once, the approach of evaluating one or two databases per year has been adopted to reduce the burden.
- ii. For the current fiscal year, the Roadway Inventory database was assessed. The assessment process was completed successfully with positive feedback.
- iii. Among the six categories assessed for the roadway database, all were either fully or partially met, indicating strong overall performance. Appreciation was extended to Jeremy's team for their efforts. Participation from other database owners was encouraged for the FY26 STRAP assessment. Support from TTI was offered for those undergoing the STRAP process.

c) NOISE Analysis (Martin)

- i. Emily Martin presented an overview of the NOISE Analysis, a strategic evaluation tool used by the TRCC to identify priorities and guide direction. The analysis is chosen over traditional gap analysis due to its better alignment with TRCC's needs, and has been conducted annually in recent years.
- ii. Needs: Aligned with FY23 TRCC goals and identifies what is required to meet those goals.
- iii. Opportunities: Recognizes external trends and federal or state-level developments that the TRCC can leverage.
- iv. Improvements: Focuses on internal process enhancements to boost quality and efficiency.
- v. Strengths: Highlights internal assets and capabilities that the TRCC can build upon.
- vi. Exceptions: Captures what is already working well and should be maintained or expanded.
- vii. A Google Form was shared to gather feedback from stakeholders on each of these areas. Emily encouraged members to take their time with the form and noted that the feedback window will remain open beyond the meeting.

d) ATSIP Pilot Project (Markham)

- i. Jim Markham presented updates on several initiatives: TRCC 101 & Outreach- A new Traffic Records 101 course was shared, which is freely available online. Jim also hosted a brief for first-time attendees to help orient them to the TRCC and data systems.
- ii. Conference Presentation: Jim highlighted TRCC progress, referencing national interest in Texas's integrated approach across databases. He emphasized the collaboration of all six database owners, who signed off on the pilot's data-sharing efforts.
- iii. Pilot Project with CMT (Cambridge Mobile Telematics):
 - a. Pilot involves analysis of data from four key databases. CMT's platform visualizes crash, citation, and phone use data via heat maps and overlays.
 - b. Examples included observed correlations in Harris County between speed enforcement and crash reduction, particularly near bridges.
 - c. Data suggests that "failure to control speed" is a strong proxy for distracted driving, supported by analysis using phone motion, tapping calls, and crash records.

- d. Combined, "failure to control speed" and "distracted driving" account for around 40% of crashes, providing strong (not conclusive) evidence of the distracted driving burden.
- iv. AASHTOWARE Safety Tools Update: The system is undergoing a major upgrade from batch loading to updates for more timely data. This process is data-intensive, especially during reprocessing by roadway updates, but it will soon enable near real-time integration across systems like CRIS.
- v. Jim concluded by thanking all participants and acknowledging national recognition of efforts.

e) LEADRS Update (Grubbs)

- i. A project has been launched to convert PowerPoint lessons into training videos using AI avatars of staff, allowing on-demand officer training. A waiver was secured enabling officers to complete training independently, receive certificates, and have credits submitted electronically.
- ii. LEADRS technology has been adopted by the Texas DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) program for statewide case tracking and evaluation. A DRE data sheet and tablet-based evaluation tool have been developed and field-tested to capture all data points during on-site assessments. Final testing with another DRE instructor group is planned before full statewide implementation.
- iii. LEADRS has been updated to .NET Core. Agencies using electronic blood warrants are prioritized for rollout. Judges now have individual profiles with login access to signed warrants. Data is collected on judicial warrant activity.
- iv. Expanded Tableau dashboards will be released to all LEADRS users, offering insights on DWI warrants and other key data points. AI tools for querying are being tested to allow real-time data requests, e.g., download of Excel files based on user-defined filters.
- v. A statewide DWI disposition tracking system is under development. AI is being trained to identify DWI dispositions automatically. Testing will begin in 2 to 4 counties, including Denton and Williamson. A broader scrape of the top 25 counties is planned within 90 days based on initial success. Backend data infrastructure is in place, pending task force direction.
- vi. A revised DIC submission process is being developed to allow electronic submission to DPS. A DIC-only module is also planned for agency use.

- vii. Single sign-on (SSO) has been implemented, allowing LEADRS users access to DRE tools, training, and support through a unified login. Short video trainings will be available for routine help.

f) Impaired Driving Database (Martin)

- i. An overview was provided of the impaired driving tracking system, a phased, multi-year approach was described. Starting with aggregate-level data and eventually aiming to incorporate individual-level tracking.
- ii. The goal was to combine existing core traffic record databases with a few additional datasets to create a more complete picture of impaired driving in Texas. Long-term, the system is expected to provide both broad trends and specific information on repeat offenders and case outcomes.
- iii. Work is underway to identify key data elements and performance metrics, which are being prioritized based on feasibility. Feedback is being gathered directly from database custodians to streamline progress. Additional partners, such as Court Administration and DPS's programs, are also being engaged.
- iv. Highlights from the impaired driving task force meeting were shared, including real-time planning and alignment with national strategies. A readiness guide from NHTSA, expected by September to help fill potential gaps and improve planning.
- v. It was noted that many other large states are facing similar challenges in building individual-level systems, offering opportunities to share lessons. Ongoing collaboration with national partners and the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force is expected to guide future work. Future phases will include working with LEADRS and other systems to define the initial versions of the tracking tool.

g) ATSIP Conference Recap/Next Year Planning (Shipp)

- i. At the recent ATSIP conference, several Texas presentations were well-received. Larry presented the next version of TxSTORM, recording is planned for the TRCC website.
- ii. The next ATSIP conference is set for the first week of August in New Orleans. TRCC members and agency representatives are encouraged to attend and submit abstracts.
- iii. Funding options are being explored to support associate ATSIP memberships, which would provide discounted registration and broader participation.

- iv. Members unfamiliar with presenting are encouraged to seek help from TTI and Jim, and others can support abstract writing and presentation development.

h) Reminder: TRCC Newsletter (Shipp)

- i. The TRCC newsletter is being compiled this year, with support from Jessica. Outreach will be conducted by Jessica, Emily, or others to gather success stories from agencies discussed during the meeting. Contributions highlighting notable efforts are encouraged and will be featured in the upcoming edition.

i) Annual Stakeholder Meeting (Shipp)

- i) Thursday, Sept 4 from 2 – 3:30 pm - The annual stakeholder meeting will be a virtual meeting to review key annual activities and preview upcoming initiatives.
- ii) A user poll will be distributed to gather input on TRCC priorities and needs. The meeting invitation will be sent early next week.

5) Adjourn

- a) Larry highlighted two upcoming events:
 - i) 2025 Traffic Safety Conference: Scheduled for August 19–21 at the Austin Hilton Airport. Presentations and discussions are expected, including TRCC-related content and task force work.
 - ii) TRCC Stakeholder Meeting: Confirmed for September 4 (2–3:30 PM). The agenda will focus on reviewing annual accomplishments.
- b) Christine was invited to preview the upcoming Impaired Driving Task Force Meeting: Scheduled from 10 AM to 3 PM at Norris Conference Center. Christine previewed the meeting, covering legislative DWI updates, enforcement training, and data trends. A unique session on "Boating While Intoxicated" by game wardens was highlighted. Christine invited attendees to join the meeting.
- c) Larry appreciated the Executive Committee members, database owners, and the TTI team for their essential contributions.
- d) A motion to adjourn by James Taylor, seconded by Valery Wakefield. All approved, none opposed.
- e) Doodle poll with proposed dates for next year will be sent to database custodians.